

### **Baptism in Cases of Emergency (Baptism in Extremis)**

All Orthodox Christians are members of the "Royal Priesthood" (I Peter 1:9) by virtue of their baptism and chrismation. As such, in cases of emergency, and when a priest is not available, they may be called upon to administer the Sacrament of Baptism. For example, if an infant is ill and may not live and no priest is available, any Orthodox Christian may perform an emergency baptism by simply administering a small amount of water (as little as a single drop if necessary) and saying the words, "The servant of God is baptized in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen." Afterwards, if the child recovers, the Sacraments of Chrismation and Holy Communion are administered in the Church.

### **Service of Adoption**

A special service of adoption may be performed for families that are blessed with the adoption of a child. If the child is not already baptized in the Orthodox faith, the service of adoption would be performed, first followed by the Sacrament of Baptism.